

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

DATE DISTR. 29 NOV 50

NO. OF PAGES 4

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

the Criminal Police, Oberrat Biehl, works very closely with the chief of the Land Criminal Police of Thuringia, Kommandeur Zahmel. These officers cooperate in outlining the duties of the Border Criminal Police. The Border Criminal Police has a unit of nine men in each Kommandantur of the Border Bereitschaften of the DDR. These units are authorized to cooperate closely with the local Criminal Police (Kripo), the State Security Service (SSD), and the MVD.

- b. The nine-man unit in each Kommandantur is composed of the following:

The chief of the unit,
The deputy to the chief,
1 clerk in charge of both the master index of identification cards (Deutscher Personalausweis) and the files of persons wanted by the police (Fahndungskartei),
1 female police officer in charge of making body searches of all women arrested by the unit,
1 stenographer-typist,
1 officer in charge of all goods confiscated from arrestees (Asservaten-Verwalter).
3 investigators

Members of the Criminal Police unit wear either civilian clothes or the regular police uniform, as the nature of their duty may dictate. Efforts are being made, however, to provide all officers with civilian clothes.

5. The Border Criminal Police also maintains border patrols composed of two police officers assigned to individual villages located on the frontier between the DDR and the Federal Republic. The principal duties of these border patrols include the investigation of border guides, i.e., those persons who conduct border crossers across the frontier for a price, and the pursuit of deserters from the Volkspolizei. In executing the latter task, the border patrols often extend their investigations to towns lying within the frontier of the Federal Republic. At the conclusion of any given case, the patrol must submit an exact report of all pertinent events to the InstruktEUR, a police officer attached to each Border Bereitschaft who is responsible for the supervision of the three Criminal Police units assigned to each Kommandantur. The InstruktEUR then forwards the report to headquarters in Weimar.

6. Activities of the Border Criminal Police:

- a. In the Meiningen area the flow of border crossers is mainly from east to west. Of those who cross from the west, approximately 10 per cent are in search of work in the DDR. Many of these people are former refugees who fled from the Soviet Zone in 1947 and 1948 largely to escape labor in the Wismut A.G. and, having found no employment in the Federal Republic, or having relatives in the DDR, have decided to return. These people, when arrested at the frontier by the border patrols, usually spend some time in confinement, are intensively interrogated and finally may be marched in groups back across the border to the west, passing through the Soviet crossing point at Henneberg. Of these crossers from the west in the Meiningen area in the first half of 1950, only three persons were granted the right of asylum in the DDR.
- b. After arrest the border crossers undergo a body search. Identification papers and all other personal effects are temporarily confiscated. Following registration, men and women are divided into separate groups prior to a second division into those crossing from the east and those crossing from the west. The identification papers are then turned over to the clerk in charge of the lists of persons wanted by the police, and the names are checked against the index. The results of this check

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are then given to the chief of the unit, who, after another screening, passes the names on to the investigators who undertake the interrogations.

6. The interrogations are of two kinds: a preliminary screening of all people arrested and a more intensive interrogation directed at those who have been in the Western Zones for an extended time. In the preliminary examination, emphasis is placed on the physical aspects of the crossing itself. Such questions as the following are asked:

When the crossing took place, where, with whom, why, to what place, how long the subject remained, with whom he spoke and associated, what kind of observations were made, when the return trip was made and where.

In the more complete interrogation which is made usually at night and under strong lights, in addition to the above-mentioned questions, the following inquiries are made:

Location of American forces, strength, armament, uniform, whether colored or white units, whether motorized, location and plans of billets.

Information is also desired concerning Federal Republic border police, location, weapons, and equipment. Source estimates that of the Federal Republic border units and customs officials, 90 per cent of all desired information is held by the DDR border police.

- a. After the interrogation is completed, the report is handed on to the Soviet interrogation officer, who decides whether the individual shall be sent back to the west, given over to the SSD or passed on to the jurisdiction of the MVD. The persons sent on to the SSD are usually returned within 24 hours with accompanying instructions calling either for their return to the west or for continued imprisonment. In the event the former decision is made, the refugee may receive up to 5 West Marks and a part of his confiscated goods. With regard to individuals crossing from east to west, a fine ranging from 50 to 200 East Mark may be imposed. Of the confiscated articles, unopened packages of West German or American production and packages containing margarine, fats and cigarettes are kept, while damaged or opened packages are not retained. Textiles and foods are handed over to the DDR cooperatives, while bean coffee, cocoa and American cigarettes are sent directly to the Weimar headquarters.
6. Daily at 1800 hours the Kommandantur chief must make a telephonic report to Weimar through the Meiningen Bereitschaft concerning the activity of the past 24 hours. This report must include data covering the following points:
 - a) Total number of arrests
 - b) Count of ammunition expended, separated into carbine and pistol categories, number of warning shots fired, number of direct hits and the effect of the latter.
 - c) Special observations at the border
 - d) of US aircraft passing over the border, altitude and direction of flight, number of motors.
 - e) Number of persons fined.

7. Training of the Border Criminal Police:

Schools are located in Weimar and Erfurt at which the employees of the Criminal Police must attend courses ranging in length from 14 days to 4 weeks. The courses in Weimar are held in the offices assigned to Dezernat K within the headquarters of the Landespolizeibehörde. One official of the Border Criminal Police of each Kommandantur is assigned to each course given in Weimar, where the classes deal largely with varying subjects encountered in locating persons wanted by the police. Two men from each Kommandantur attend each course given in Erfurt, with one of them being the instructor. The emphasis is placed on basic concepts

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of the Criminal Police and on executing police investigations. The courses given in Erfurt average 75 students and those in Weimar 35. In addition to these specialized classes, political training and border police tactics are provided for the Border Criminal Police in the regular instruction given by each Kommandantur.